

101

ACHIEVEMENTS

OF LABOUR IN POWER



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FOREWORD

For fourteen long years, Labour has been locked out of power in Westminster. Our country is now crying out for a general election. But a Labour victory is not a foregone conclusion: we have to earn it.

As Keir Starmer said, the opportunity to shape our country's future rests in our hands. It is up to all of us in Labour to make our case to the country, and win the trust of voters who have rejected the opportunity to elect a Labour government four times in a row.

'101 Achievements' is LGA Labour's contribution to that task. It provides concrete evidence of how Labour delivers real change for working people, even in extremely challenging circumstances, and lays out the difference that Labour in power makes.

Labour has set out an ambitious vision of how mission-led government can transform our country, with a long-term plan that is underpinned by a radical change in how we approach the economy and government. Labour councillors not only support that vision, but we believe we are integral to its success. Bluntly, the next Labour government in Westminster will not be able to deliver on the missions without working in partnership with town halls across the UK: tapping into our expertise, empowering our local ambition, and trusting us to deliver.

Many of the achievements you will read demonstrate how and why public services can be delivered faster, better, and more efficiently at a local level. Many others show how well-designed early intervention services can deliver better value for money for the taxpayer by preventing more costly demands falling on the NHS or the police. Labour councils have demonstrated time and time again that we set ambitious goals for our towns and cities, can build strong local partnerships to meet them, and can deliver despite a succession of failing Conservative governments. Just imagine what we can achieve in partnership with a Labour government that sets us up to succeed.



The LGA Labour Group exists to provide a strong voice for Labour in local government. We represent and support Labour Groups in England and Wales and the Labour councillors within them.

For enquiries about our work, or for more information about the Labour difference in local government, contact Pete Robbins, the Head of the Labour Group office peter.robbins@local.gov.uk

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Councillor Nesil Caliskan.

COUNCILLOR NESIL CALISKAN

Leader, LGA Labour



ACHIEVING FROM POWER LOCALLY

Labour councils, councillors, and mayors are delivering improvements for working people across the UK. Almost 2 out of every 3 people in England now live in areas served by an elected Labour council or a Labour metro mayor, and their achievements show the difference our party can make when we are trusted with power.

There are now over 6,500 Labour councillors serving their local communities, and Labour leads over 130 local councils in England and Wales including almost every large city in England, and dozens of rural district councils. Labour councils run key public services including education, social care, health, and housing, and have responsibility over tens of billions of pounds of public money.

Despite the Conservative government handing down wildly varying powers and responsibilities, Labour's seven metro mayors have demonstrated the power of regional leadership and the importance of working with combined authorities to develop growth and infrastructure plans that match the ambitions of local people.

Labour councils, mayors, and councillors are looking forward to a Keir Starmer government fulfilling its promise of a new partnership between national and local government, in which we work together to deliver Labour's national priorities alongside the freedom to innovate at a local level.



LABOUR'S LOCAL CHAMPIONS

Labour's army of over 6,500 councillors across Britain play a leading role in their communities – and always put local people first. From litter picks and ward walks to volunteering at food banks, Labour councillors work to make their own corner of our country better.

PRIDE IN OUR PLACES

Every month hundreds of Labour councillors run community litter picks, getting stuck in with the challenge of keeping their local areas clean and tidy. In Milton Keynes this team picked up 12 sacks worth of rubbish in just one estate.



LISTENING TO RESIDENTS: WEEK IN, WEEK OUT

Labour councillors are in touch with what local people say because they take the time to listen. Our councillors spend hours every week on ward walkabouts, at community meetings, and knocking on residents' doors to listen to their views on what the council should prioritise and fight to improve.



REFLECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Labour councillors reflect our diverse population – meaning decisions made about the community are being taken BY the whole community. There is still more to do to increase representation but we are streets ahead of the other parties. 45% of Labour councillors are women – and the proportion of Labour council leaders that are women is DOUBLE that of the Conservatives. Labour also has more black and minority ethnic councillors than all the other parties put together.



ACHIEVING LABOUR'S NATIONAL MISSIONS

Keir Starmer has set out a clear vision for Britain, based on a decade of national renewal. He has set out a compelling plan to change this country, with five long term missions to end sticking plaster politics.

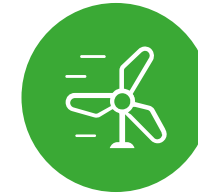
Mission-led government means doing things differently – an end to short-term sticking plaster politics, setting ambitious goals and tackling problems systemically and for the long term.

Labour's **five national missions** are fully funded and built on the first duty of a government: to protect our country through economic stability, secure borders, and strong defence.



GET BRITAIN BUILDING AGAIN

By following strict rules that strengthen public finances, and reforming planning laws and skills, so we build more houses, giga factories, windfarms, roads, labs, and ports.



SWITCH ON GREAT BRITISH ENERGY

By creating a new publicly owned, clean energy company, that ensures jobs are created here in Britain and that we aren't dependent on tyrants like Putin.



GET THE NHS BACK ON ITS FEET

By paying doctors and nurses overtime to work evenings and weekends to cut the backlog – paid for by ending non-dom tax breaks for the very wealthy.



TAKE BACK OUR STREETS

By guaranteeing town centre police patrols in every community to tackle gangs, drug dealers and fly tippers – paid for by cutting outside contractors and waste.



BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY

By introducing free school breakfast clubs and more high-quality teaching with more specialist maths and science teachers – paid for by removing tax breaks for private schools and non-doms.

Labour councillors not only support Keir Starmer's vision for mission-led government, but we believe we are integral to its success. 101 Achievements is packed with examples of how Labour is delivering real change for working people where we are in power.

Recent experience of Whitehall failure shows that the next Labour government will not be able to deliver on the missions without building a genuine partnership with local government.

Local councils deliver public services at a local level faster, better, and more efficiently than any Whitehall department ever can. We must be central to efforts to build the homes we need, reclaim our streets from anti-social behaviour, and deliver local growth plans that benefit every community. Let's build a better Britain together.

GET BRITAIN BUILDING AGAIN

AND GROW OUR LOCAL ECONOMIES

Increasing growth is one of the biggest challenges that our country faces. Growth is needed to improve living standards, create jobs and to deliver strong public services. Stronger public services lead to a healthy workforce with the skills and resources that they need to succeed. With better paid jobs, people will be able to support their local economies, with thriving high streets and leisure services. Every local economy is different and whilst national growth is the responsibility of national government, this cannot be achieved without strong local growth that happens country-wide, not just concentrated in a few places. Labour councils have a long and successful record of growing their economies and building the homes we need.



TACKLING THE HOUSING CRISIS

Leading local development

In 2017, **Barking and Dagenham Council** created Be First – providing highly professional and competent ‘end to end’ financial investment, design, planning and development delivery services. Through this, the council has been able to quickly translate its policy goals for housing development, economic innovation, and regeneration into reality. Be First creates greater certainty for private sector investors and construction partners by de-risking complex development challenges. As a result, Barking and Dagenham is one of the largest builders of council housing in the country, and the creation of Be First should see the creation of 2,000 jobs in the borough by 2037.

Transforming derelict sites

Norwich City Council have transformed a derelict site by building much needed new social homes. A site that had been derelict for years was bought by the council in 2020 using a Compulsory Purchase Order and five new eco-friendly homes of varying sizes have been built and are now let to applicants on the housing register. All homes have been built to high environmental standards to save tenants money on heating bills, and all have EV chargers. In addition to this, across the city the council proactively purchasing privately owned land that have become eyesores and building much needed homes in their place.

10,000 new homes

In the summer of 2023, the first council tenants moved into homes in **Enfield Council's** Meridian Water project which is helping to regenerate Edmonton with new affordable homes, jobs, public spaces, and facilities. Alongside the recently completed new council homes, the council has built a new Construction Skills Academy, so local people can train on the job while building new homes for Edmonton residents on site. It has also seen new cultural assets built in the borough such as Troubadour Meridian Water Studios, providing state-of-the-art studio space used by Netflix and Apple TV, and a new 15,000-capacity cultural space – The Drumsheds. Over the next 25 years, 10,000 new homes will be built at Meridian Water in partnership with the Mayor of London.

Buying back homes lost to Right To Buy

Islington Council is tackling the housing crisis by providing more council housing in the borough. Building new homes is part of this, but Islington is also buying back ex Right-to-Buy properties to provide much needed council homes for residents. So far, the council has committed to buying back 310 properties, containing a mix of 1,2,3 and 4-bed properties, providing a variety of housing stock to meet the diverse needs of residents requiring secure council homes.

Increasing social rented homes

In 2018, **Trafford Council** adopted a new planning policy that would secure millions of pounds worth of investment to build the first social rented homes in the borough for more than a decade. The council worked with large developers to pay for and build more affordable properties in the borough, combining the contributions from developers into the Trafford Affordable Housing Fund. As a result, hundreds of social homes have been built, ensuring that Trafford residents have an affordable and secure home to live in. In addition to this, vacant buildings are being purchased by the council and repurposed into social homes, adding to the available housing stock.



Turning private housing into council housing

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan launched the Council Homes Acquisition Programme (CHAP) that will convert up to 10,000 private homes into council housing. The initiative will tackle the urgent need for more social housing and to help councils struggling with soaring demand for temporary accommodation.

Improving energy efficiency

Blackpool Council coordinates the “Cosy Homes in Lancashire” project, covering all council-backed energy efficiency schemes in Lancashire. It offers an accessible and straightforward means of accessing grants from central government, energy companies and other sources to fund new heating measures, insulation, and renewable technologies in domestic properties. The partnership is involved with the Home Upgrade Grant 2 scheme to improve the energy performance of homes, to take homes out of fuel poverty and progress towards the UK’s commitment to reach Net Zero by 2050. In the last two years almost 3,500 residents have had energy saving measures installed and thousands more will be helped before 2025. Improving properties and energy efficiency has been the catalyst for people to tackle other issues they are dealing with such as gambling and alcoholism. Having an affordable warm property provides a sense of security for people feeling overwhelmed by their situation.

Somers Town is one of the most deprived communities in the country. **Camden Council** secured £3million from the Mayor of London’s Future Neighbourhood 2030 Fund as well as an additional £3million from local partners to improve the energy efficiency of local homes and increase access to green space – two of the top issues that residents had said was affecting their quality of life. The funding has contributed to initiatives such as the retrofit of over 30 homes to bring them to high standards of energy efficiency and reduce the energy bills for residents, expanding the Somers Town Energy Heat network to an additional 68 homes, install solar panels on public buildings such as schools and community centres, and transform over 200m² of green space on Camden estates.

THE LABOUR DIFFERENCE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Labour councils are leading the way in building more affordable housing:

- The 97 councils led by Labour started building 33801 affordable homes in 2022/23, but the 135 councils led by Conservatives started just 18296
- 17 of the 20 councils with the highest number of affordable housing starts in 2022/23 are led by Labour
- Labour-led councils started building twice as many homes for social rent per head of population than Conservative councils in 22/23
- In London, Labour councils started almost 10 times more homes per head of population at London Affordable Rent than Conservative councils

REDUCING HOMELESSNESS

Help for private renters

As a town with one of the highest rates of homelessness in the country, **Ipswich Borough Council** has made tackling homelessness a priority. The Ipswich Lettings Experience Team (LET) has been created to help renters in Ipswich access high quality homes with good landlords, in turn guaranteeing rent to the landlords which is slightly above the LHA rate and paid via the tenant. The LET now has around 180 properties across a Rent Guarantee Scheme and a Deposit Bond Scheme. The council has also invested in temporary accommodation so that when people do get evicted, they have somewhere suitable to live whilst a permanent solution is found. The leadership of the council have also made it clear that no families should be placed in B&B accommodation. As well as building hundreds of new homes in the town, the council is also providing more homes through a buy-back and acquisitions programme, which has bought more than 100 properties from the open market over the last five years.

Street Support Partnerships

To tackle homelessness in the city, **Leeds City Council** have developed a new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy with consultation undertaken through the Homeless Prevention Forum to capture the lived experience of those who have experienced homelessness. The council have created the Leeds Street Support Partnership which aims to support homeless people and to reduce rough sleeping and begging, recognising that homeless people are at disproportionate risk of greater ill-health and premature death. The partnership involves statutory and third sector services with a focus on safeguarding this vulnerable population in a compassionate way while also addressing anti-social and criminal behaviour. Intelligence and insight has identified individuals at risk of homelessness, “in-reach” staff in prisons and hospitals prevent people going back onto the streets, and a charter for grassroots organisations sets out how to work with people in need on the streets.

Improving standards in private renting

Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham is introducing a Good Landlord Charter, the first of its kind in the UK, which will bring together landlords and renters to improve the standards of homes in both social housing and the private rented sector. It aims to recognise and develop best practice, boost tenant confidence in the quality of good rental properties and provide an ambitious new voluntary standard for landlord excellence.

A number of Labour-run councils have implemented Landlord Licensing Schemes to support private sector tenants living in the area. **Oxford City Council, Nottingham City Council, Liverpool City Council** and **Waltham Forest Council** have all implemented landlord licensing or selective licensing schemes, reflecting the large number of private tenants living in their areas. The schemes vary between councils, but all are united by the aim of ensuring that those landlords only let properties fitted out and maintained to a decent standard, so tenants can live in them comfortably and free from problems such as damp and mould. The schemes are generally self-financing through the fees charged to landlords to obtain licences.



TACKLING THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Tackling the cost-of-living crisis is a priority for Labour councils. Challenges faced during the Covid-19 pandemic have not gone away but have been exacerbated by disastrous economic decisions taken by the Tories, leaving hardworking people to pay the price. Labour councils have taken a wide range of actions to support residents through the cost-of-living crisis – enabling residents to live their lives and still be able to access the basics such as heating and food.

Cost of living plans

In May 2023 Labour became the largest party in local government, and took control of another 22 councils. Our new Labour councils were ready to deliver change for their residents from day one, and immediately after the local elections their leaders met with Keir Starmer and other members of the shadow Cabinet to discuss how their councils can support residents hit hard by the cost-of-living crisis:

Stoke-on-Trent City Council launched the “Help is at Hand” campaign to bring services together and help with food, energy, and money.

Swindon Council updated the council’s cost-of-living crisis plan, giving support across a wide range of areas – including providing slow cookers and health grills to struggling families.

Brighton and Hove City Council consulted on and developed a Cost-of-Living Action Plan – which focuses on emergency response, prevention, and resilience.



Tackling food insecurity

Mansfield District Council has set up a series of FOOD (Food On Our Doorstep) Clubs, to tackle food and fuel insecurity in the district. Initially, a food share scheme was set up in a community centre with donations from Aldi, Warburtons, Sainsbury’s and Morrisons – with referrals for 60 residents. It distributed nearly 500 bags of food before becoming a more sustainable model and becoming the first of six FOOD clubs in the district. In 2022, these clubs provided affordable food for 6,756 residents. The clubs are operated by the charity Family Action, who work with FairShare to provide unsold but usable food for the FOOD clubs. Residents pay £3.50 and get £12–£15 worth of food. No referral is needed, which makes the service accessible to all.

Community support in warm spaces

Newcastle City Council opened community spaces to support their residents through challenging times. The council set up a network of safe spaces where residents were guaranteed a warm, safe space where they could socialise, learn new skills, and get help accessing the different streams of support that are available to them. Around 90 organisations across the city signed up to be one of these safe spaces – known as Wellbeing Hubs – providing excellent coverage across Newcastle – and most of these hubs continued to welcome residents past winter so they could still access the social and practical support provided – even if the need for warm spaces was not as great.

Brent Council helped set up the Community Shop, a programme of wraparound care for residents who need support meeting the basics as prices rise. For a £4 weekly fee, members and their families can access a self-selected weekly food shop worth £25, lunch and an evening meal, specialist welfare advice, a session to make a personal development plan, and health and wellbeing support that includes free gym access. All of this is provided in a warm, safe space – giving many members and their families a respite from the challenges they are facing.

Reducing repossessions

Due to the cost-of-living crisis, more and more homeowners were turning to **Milton Keynes Council** seeking support to prevent them defaulting on mortgage payments. Initially using the Homelessness Prevention Fund, Milton Keynes Council supported residents to stay in their homes by paying mortgage arrears and preventing homelessness. Recognising that this fund was limited, the council set up the MK Homeowner Mortgage Interest Relief Fund, providing one-off allowances to give people more time to secure their finances and prevent defaulting on their mortgages. Strict criteria must be met to access the fund, which include being pregnant or living with dependent children, at risk of domestic violence, having health problems and time spent in prison, care, or the armed forces. All other routes must have been exhausted before being able to access the fund, including seeking debt counselling and debt management support, and the property must be suitable for those who live there.



Publicly owned temporary accommodation

Thanet Council are investing in “in-house” temporary housing to reduce the financial social costs that come because of temporary accommodation. When people are placed in temporary accommodation outside of the area it isolates them from their support networks, and the costs of temporary accommodation create significant financial pressures for councils. The council now has 18 units for those who need temporary accommodation that are in constant use – reducing costs for the council and providing stability for residents who need it – making it easier for them to move on with their lives.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Shop local vouchers

Local economic recovery was a key priority for **Hounslow Council** following the pandemic. To encourage residents to support local businesses, the council launched the ambitious Hounslow Shop Local Voucher initiative, whereby every household in Hounslow received a free £20 voucher to spend at participating businesses in the borough. This was funded by government grants for business recovery support following the pandemic. The aim was to encourage spending at retailers badly affected by the Covid-19 lockdowns and stimulate spending in town centres and local shopping parades during the autumn and winter, when footfall often decreases. This meant that jobs were protected despite challenging conditions and customers reengaged with local businesses, encouraging repeat visits.

Local Leadership Pledge for small businesses

After Labour won control of **Medway Council** in May 2023, the new administration set about supporting small businesses in Medway, recognising them as an important part of Medway's economy. Within fifty days of taking power, the new Labour administration signed the Federation of Small Businesses Local Leadership Pledge, pledging that small businesses have a named officer and politician to liaise with and commits the council to working better with small businesses. The signing of this pledge has been followed up with networking events, more direct contact between individual businesses and Medway Council, and more formal engagement between the council and FSB Kent.

THE LABOUR DIFFERENCE FOR LOCAL ECONOMIES

Labour councils do more than Conservative councils to invest in local jobs and business:

- 164% more per resident on economic development
- 75% more on economic research to drive local economic growth
- Over three times more per resident on community development
- More than twice as much to boost local tourism

HEALTHY, VIBRANT LOCAL ECONOMIES

State of the art office space

Chesterfield Borough Council remained committed to two flagship economic development projects despite the uncertainty of the pandemic as local leaders wanted to show that Chesterfield was open for business as the country emerged from lockdown. In the last 18 months, two flagship office developments have opened in the town, backed by the council, giving a state-of-the-art home to local businesses needing office space, and attracting inward investment into the town. Both developments have the council's climate change commitments at their heart, and where possible utilised local construction and services companies as well as being a base for local skills training.

Developing tourism

Recognising the importance of tourism to the area, **East Staffordshire District Council** has been working to increase the prosperity of the borough through tourism. A Tourism Development Fund was launched to help support new projects, events, services, or marketing campaigns to attract more visitors to the area. The council ran a 'Discover a Big Adventure' campaign over the summer designed to raise awareness of local events, places to visit, and affordable activities for families, and has also developed a strategic framework for the delivery of tourism in East Staffordshire.

Local industrial strategies

In 2017, **Hammersmith and Fulham Council** were the first council in the country to launch a local industrial strategy. It sought to build an economic eco-system in science, technology, engineering, maths, medicines, and media (STEMMM) aiming to deliver exceptional growth and provide opportunities to all its residents in the strongest emerging



sectors of the global economy. Since then it has attracted £6 billion in growth investment (more than the rest of West London combined) and has created 8,000 new jobs. The council has led at every level – persuading Imperial College London to become partners to the strategy and setting up a team of business commissioners to provide strategic advice and insight. One of the outcomes of the industrial strategy has been the creation of the White City Innovation District – attracting major employers such as Novartis, Autolus, L'Oréal, Airbus, ITV, and NATO. Engagement with young people has also been an important part of the wider strategy – making sure that schools and further education colleges are linked up with the business and employment opportunities that are developing locally.

Cultural regeneration

New housing and economic growth are intrinsically linked which **Knowsley Council** recognises and is reflecting in plans for town centre development and regeneration. By 2028, 8,000 new homes will have been delivered in the borough, and the council wants there to be proper culture, leisure, and retail opportunities for the borough's growing population. With three town centres, the council has pursued different strategies to meet different needs – investing in an improved cultural offer in Prescot with the Shakespeare North Playhouse, in retail in Kirkby and developing Huyton Village Centre as a centre to meet commercial, social, and local service needs. These schemes have all increased footfall in their respective areas.

Supporting local film and TV industries

Liverpool City Council hosts the Liverpool Film Office which attracts film and TV production to the city. This has brought the filming of blockbusters such as Batman and Peaky Blinders to the city. As a result, Liverpool is the most filmed city outside of London and this is supporting the growing local film industry and the jobs that support it. Liverpool City Council is hoping to deliver a new film studio in a derelict Littlewoods building in the city, bringing more jobs and investment in this key creative industry.

THE LABOUR DIFFERENCE ON COUNCIL TAX

- The average council tax bill issued by Labour councils for 2023/24 was **£345 lower** than the average Conservative council tax bill
- 19 of the 20 councils with the lowest average council tax bills are controlled by Labour (none are Conservative)
- Of the 50 councils with the lowest Band D council tax, 33 are Labour controlled (just 7 are Conservative controlled)

local people and procuring local companies; and working to encourage healthier lifestyles and wellbeing.

South Tyneside Council has launched the South Tyneside Pledge which harnesses the power of local businesses, organisations, and institutions to support the borough and drive forward local economic growth. Global companies such as Hitachi and as well as the Port of Tyne and Tyne College have signed the pledge which commits them to take a more conscious approach to local recruitment and procurement. Analysis by Northumbria University has found that this has boosted South Tyneside's economy by £3million, through a combination of increased use of local suppliers, employing more local people and putting in place climate change mitigation measures.

Inclusive economic growth

Motivated by a desire to make the local economy work for everyone, **Newcastle City Council** passed their first inclusive economic growth strategy in March 2023. The strategy brings together councils and other key stakeholders in the city to ensure wealth flows through the city equitably, allowing every resident access to good opportunities in life which encourage them to reach their full potential. The ambitious strategy is about continuing to grow Newcastle's economy and make a fundamental change in how that growth is transmitted and benefits residents, delivering equitable economic outcomes and opportunities for all regardless of who they are, what part of the city they live or work in. At its heart are five objectives: encouraging strong economic assets in all sectors; using the city's reputation to be more inclusive and spreading opportunities wider; creating a reliable affordable public transport system so people can access opportunities; ensuring wealth flows more freely by employing

Procuring using social value

Supporting and growing the local economy is a priority for **Southampton City Council**. Through the Southampton Pound initiative and using the council's local spending power, the council implemented a Social Value Procurement Policy in 2020. This embeds social value into all the contracts that Southampton enters. As a result, recent projects undertaken by the council have seen most jobs taken by people employed locally and using locally based businesses. Alongside the council introducing the real living wage for council employees, many local businesses and organisations have followed suit, providing an economic boost for many residents.

Developing high value industries

The Life Sciences sector has been important to Hertfordshire's economy for many years, and **Stevenage Borough Council** has been committed to supporting the growth of this vital sector in the borough. The council is working with Reef Group and UBS Asset Management to deliver cutting edge office and laboratory space in the town for the life sciences sector. To date, 83,000 sq. ft of office and advanced manufacturing space has been delivered, with another 65,000 sq. ft to follow. Further developments are due to follow, cementing Stevenage's position as a key player in the UK's life sciences sector. This commitment to the sector is also attracting other companies from the wider STEM sector to locate in or around Stevenage, bringing with them highly skilled jobs and having a positive impact on local businesses in the wider supply chain.



Municipal bus companies

Warrington Council owns Warrington Borough Transport, a municipally owned bus company. This enables the council to keep residents connected as the bus company can be run either at a loss or to break even – instead of being focused purely on profits like most bus companies. It means that routes that are a vital lifeline to

residents – particularly the elderly – will still run. In 2022, a decision was made to double the frequency of evening services – giving residents and visitors more bus services to enable them to get to and from work and social activities via bus at a time of day when it has traditionally been harder to travel. These initiatives have helped reduce isolation and loneliness, support employment and maintain access to medical care, education, retail, and banking.

Investing in Active Travel

Recognising the importance of local investment, **Waltham Forest Council** is developing 15-minute neighbourhoods – building on the success and popularity of their Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. The Lea Bridge Area Framework is an example of this – developed to create a fairer and more equal community, with investment in and access to play areas and open spaces, climate adaptation measures, health facilities, community spaces and social infrastructure. Coupled with investment in active travel, the council’s strategic vision will develop neighbourhoods that are vibrant places to live, work and visit.



Integrated transport

Cambridge and Peterborough Mayor Dr Nik Johnson has overseen the introduction of one of the UK’s first Local Transport and Connectivity Plans (LTCP), which will help increase productivity and improve connectivity between communities, reduce emissions to net zero by 2050, improve safety, and boost public transport.

SWITCH ON GREAT BRITISH ENERGY

AND TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges facing the entire world, with extreme weather events causing flooding, and fluctuating temperatures increasing the impact of skyrocketing energy costs. Investing in clean energy will improve our energy security and keep household bills down, as well as creating thousands of good, secure green jobs across the country. Retrofitting existing structures and providing new zero-carbon buildings is essential to tackle the climate crisis – reducing carbon emissions and cutting bills. Meeting this challenge can only be delivered through locally-driven action, and councils are already leading the way – from moving to electric vehicles and retrofitting council buildings, to building carbon neutral council housing and boosting biodiversity.



IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

Supporting the spread of electric vehicles

Councils up and down the country are leading the way installing electric vehicle charging points. **Hounslow Council** will install an additional 2000 EV charge points by 2026, making it easier for residents to transition to electric cars and for visitors to charge their electric cars.

Leeds City Council has secured grant and private sector funding to increase the number of EV charging points in the city and encourage EV ownership amongst residents. A new partnership between the council and EB Charging will see charge points installed predominantly in areas with no off-street parking, removing a barrier to getting an EV. Since 2018, local planning policies have required that charging points be included in any new development with parking.

Active travel

Air quality is a big public health issue affecting millions of people across the country – both in urban and rural areas. Road vehicles are a big contributor to poor quality, so councils across the country have been encouraging residents to use alternative modes of transportation to reduce harmful emissions. **Islington Council** have introduced seven low traffic neighbourhoods, over thirty school streets and installed a network of cycle paths to reduce car journeys so people can safely cycle, walk and wheel.

School streets

Waltham Forest Council has introduced a number of school streets programmes in the borough to make it safer for children and their carers to walk, bike or wheel to school. Alongside these road closures, which places restrictions on certain roads near schools at specific times of the day, parents and carers can take advantage of free cycle loans, cycle training, kick scooter parking and free route planning to facilitate longer term behaviour change.

Clean energy buses

Liverpool City Region Mayor Steve Rotheram commissioned a fleet of 20 publicly owned hydrogen buses that are helping to decarbonise public transportation in the Liverpool City Region, alongside a £500 million investment in new publicly owned battery powered trains which deliver an 80% reduction in energy consumption.

MAKING THE MOST OF NATURE AND GREEN SPACES

Tree for every child

Bradford Council's innovative Tree for Every Child initiative which aimed to plant 55,000 trees in schools and green spaces – one for every primary school child in the district – exceeded its target by 5000 trees. Council investment and partnership working helped to engage 90 schools, hundreds of volunteers, and thousands of pupils, attracting national attention including on BBC's Countryfile and helping Bradford secure a place in the Tree Cities of the World global network.

New parks

Ealing Council is becoming a pioneer in creating new green space in urban areas. The council is creating a new "Regional Park"; a space for promoting biodiversity, including the reintroduction of native species, increasing flood resilience, and somewhere for residents to reconnect with nature and improve their wellbeing. With Ealing's population due to grow over the next decade, providing such a landmark space will be important for people's quality of life. It is part of the wider work of the council to use their planning powers to prioritise green spaces, rewild green spaces and increase tree canopy coverage locally to 25%.

DECARBONISING BUILDINGS

Labour councils are leading the way on decarbonising buildings – recognising that energy efficient buildings not only the environment, but also brings down energy costs as well.

The Passivhaus building standard meets high design and environmental standards, as well as dramatically reducing energy costs. Both **Norwich City Council** and **Greenwich Council** have built council housing to Passivhaus standards – meaning that council tenants are able to live in high quality housing and enjoy low energy bills. This has wider benefits than just being environmentally friendly – it is good for health and wellbeing and for the cost of living for residents. The buildings are also futureproofed, removing the need to retrofit them over the coming years. **Exeter City Council** has built Edwards Court – a Passivhaus standard extra care facility for residents aged 55 and over. The scheme has communal facilities including a lounge, dining room and garden, a wellbeing suite, and a roof terrace. Residents can get two hot meals cooked per day as part of the care provided.

Leisure centres are an important facility for communities, but they traditionally have a high carbon footprint and large energy bills. Several Labour councils have responded to these twin challenges by starting to decarbonise their leisure centres. **Exeter City Council** built St Sidwell's Point, the country's first Passivhaus leisure centre, delivering over 70% in energy savings and including two swimming pools, spa facilities and a well-equipped gym.

Membership is kept at a low cost for residents, and links with local GP surgeries are strong to allow for social prescribing where appropriate. **Oxford City Council** and **Telford and Wrekin Council** have both retrofitted existing leisure centres to reduce their carbon footprint and bring down energy bills. In Oxford, funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme was used to install air source heat pumps in leisure centres across the city to heat swimming pools, as well as a special water source heat pump at Oxford's outdoor heated pool. In Telford and Wrekin, Newport Leisure Centre was retrofitted, again using money from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. The retrofit included the installation of air source heat pumps, thermal insulation, reducing the depth of the pool to reduce the amount of water that needs to be heated, and installing LED lighting.



Encouraging biodiversity

Recognising the importance of both blue and green spaces to the borough and the environment more generally, **Enfield Council** have set out an ambitious “blue green” strategy, with the aim of encouraging biodiversity and rewilding parts of the borough. Historic wetlands have been reintroduced to reduce flooding and to capture carbon to help meet the 2030 net zero target. Enfield were the first London borough to reintroduce beavers into the wild in London in over 400 years, with a baby “kit” since being born in the wild. Beavers encourage wetlands and help prevent flooding downstream and are a welcome addition to the natural environment.

Improving public access to parks

Knowsley Council is working with residents and community groups to revitalise Court Hey Park, an historic green flag park and turn it into a vibrant space to be enjoyed widely. The Courtyard area of the park has been transformed into a vibrant community space, with spaces to rent and events to be held – including a flower show and a Mental Health Resilience Forum. New walking paths are planned and outdoor sports facilities will be added, along with an ecology awareness zone. A local charity is helping people learn about growing their own food, providing specific support for low-income families.



Trafford Council is also investing in Longford Park, an historic space in the borough. Using funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the council is developing a new learning, training and volunteering hub in Longford Park, as well as improved sports and recreation facilities – including a BMX track. Other parts of the park will be improved, with new seating, lighting and paths.

The first National Marine Park

Plymouth City Council declared the UK’s first National Marine Park – a place where people and planet will come together to realise a new, sustainable relationship with the sea. This a locally led innovation involving partners from across the city, which is already bringing benefits to citizens and the economy, and helping the council respond to challenges such as climate change and nature recovery. Outcomes include an engagement programme targeting groups of residents disengaged with environmental initiatives, investment in marine conservation skills and an increase in visitors to the city.

ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Spreading awareness through faith groups

Over 80% of residents in Brent follow a faith. **Brent Council** recognised that engaging residents on the issue of climate change would be important to get support for climate initiatives. The council worked with faith groups and places of worship to put on exhibitions such as “Climate Change and my religion” and talks on climate change – linking the moral principles of different religions to taking positive climate action. This work culminated in the creation of the Brent Faith Climate Action Group to work on specific faith and climate change issues. In July 2023, the Faith Climate Action Plan was launched at a local synagogue to encourage faith groups and their communities to take sustainable actions, enabling residents to live more sustainably and save money on bills.

THE LABOUR DIFFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Labour councils invest more per head of population than Conservative councils on key environmental services:

- 71% more per head on measures to address the challenge of climate change
- 37% more per head on public open spaces, including local parks, playing fields, and play areas, as well as country parks and public allotments
- 16% more per head on waste minimisation, to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill or incinerated

Demonstrating the impact of climate change

The Environmental Justice Measure (EJM) is **Westminster City Council's** interactive, publicly available tool that highlights access to a healthy environment across Westminster, showing how different residents are impacted by climate change. The EJM brings together a wide range of environmental datasets, including air quality, access to open spaces, flood risk and building efficiency. When overlayed with the Index of Multiple Deprivation, insight can be given on the impact on quality of life. The EJM leads evidence-based, fairer decision making in the council, including allocating funds to projects, planning outreach events and informing planning policies. It is also used at residents' meetings to explain decisions, council priorities, fostering greater understanding of council actions. By using the EJM, not only does the council improve the targeting of their environmental measures, but also maximises effective spending – both now and in the future.

LOW-CARBON BUILDINGS AND SERVICES

New green jobs

In May 2022, **Bristol City Council** launched City Leap, a public-private partnership which will see £424 million invested in Bristol in the first five years of the project, creating more than one thousand green jobs that will all pay the Real Living Wage. Bristol City Leap will expand Bristol's Heat Network, providing businesses and residents access to low-cost, low-carbon heat to help reduce energy bills and carbon emissions across the city. The council's social housing will be made more energy efficient, and solar panels and heat pumps will be installed at schools around the city. The City Leap allows the council to access funding usually unavailable and will play a valuable role in moving the city and wider region towards net zero.

Carbon neutral councils

Cheshire East Council set itself an ambitious target to become carbon neutral by 2025 in recognition of the severity of the climate crisis. A range of steps have been taken, including installing heat pumps at Macclesfield Town Hall and reducing travel and energy use. Only 1% of emissions come from the council, so they have committed to helping

organisations and households locally to reduce their carbon emissions. The Cheshire and Warrington Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission has published a list of projects that can make this a reality – such as retrofitting housing, behaviour change such as reducing meat consumption and transitioning agriculture towards net zero – an important step given the amount of farmland in the region.

Local renewable energy schemes

South Tyneside Council have launched Viking Energy, a renewable energy network that heats council buildings. Using water from the River Tyne, the network uses a water source heat pump and solar power to extract low grade heat from the water, compress it and export it to council buildings. One site has already opened and another two will open soon. It is expected that once all three are operational the council will reduce its Co2 emissions by 4000 tonnes every year.



Supporting decarbonisation

West Suffolk Council has launched a £1m decarbonisation fund to help community organisations reduce their carbon emissions and make energy savings. The first step is to work with town and parish councils to switch streetlights to LED lamps, reducing energy consumption by up to 80%. This will make an important contribution to reducing the borough's carbon emissions, as well as providing savings for spending on other initiatives.

Innovative hydrogen fuels

Tackling emissions across the council estate is key to **Worthing Borough Council's** decarbonisation plan. Worthing Crematorium has the largest carbon footprint of any council site, so the council is working with Netherlands based DFW Europe who are trialling hydrogen fuelled crematoria which will drastically reduce emissions

from crematoria. Worthing Crematorium is the first UK site in line for testing, which will happen in early 2024. The trial will fuel one of three cremators with green hydrogen and, if successful, hydrogen-based cremators will be rolled out on a wider scale.

Funding community solutions

West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin, launched a £1.7 million community grants scheme to help cut carbon emissions and make neighbourhoods across the region greener and healthier. Funding is being delivered to local projects including some that will provide clean and flexible energy solutions.

EFFICIENT WASTE MANAGEMENT

Improving recycling

Environmental services are an important service provided by councils. **Cheshire West and Chester Council** set up an arms-length management company, Cheshire West Recycling (CWR) to respond to the challenges presented by changing demand, budgetary pressures and climate change. This change has resulted in a marked improvement in services and local waste management – including a new fleet of more efficient bin lorries, new wheelie bins and dual recycling, enabling recycling to be dealt with more effectively. A paid-for garden waste service has been introduced, with subscriptions in the first-year exceeding targets, as well as smart, solar powered big belly bins and making it easier to contact the waste management team.



Underground bin storage

Liverpool City Council has pioneered the biggest expansion of underground bins in the UK. Whilst these are common in mainland Europe, they are yet to be adopted on a large scale in the UK. The council has rolled out underground bins for 27,000 households in the city – with a focus on areas where it is difficult to store traditional wheelie bins due to narrow alleyways. The installation of the bins has drastically reduced alleyway dumping and the associated vermin problems.

GET THE NHS BACK ON ITS FEET

AND END LOCAL HEALTH INEQUALITIES

The NHS is facing an existential long-term challenge after fourteen years of Tory mismanagement. A Labour government will take a prevention first approach to fixing the NHS, recognising that healthcare needs have changed since the NHS was set up in 1948. But the NHS can't be fixed without fixing adult social care and supporting a strong public health system, both of which are the responsibility of local councils. This places local government at the heart of Labour's NHS mission, and Labour councils are already demonstrating how a locally-led approach, tailored to local and cultural norms, offers the most effective route to improvement.



SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES

Reducing pressure on ambulance services

Many Labour councils have set up falls services to support vulnerable residents who are living independently. In **Blackpool**, Vitaline is a 24/7, 365 days a year service, accessed directly or through 999, ensuring that the person is safe to be moved from the floor. Crucially, this reduces pressure on the ambulance service. The service has been successfully expanded to care homes with further evidence of reduced pressure on the ambulance service. In **Bradford**, the Bradford Enablement Support Team support people who have had or who are at risk of a fall. Personal alarms alert the team and immediate support is provided. Out of 400 people helped, only seven needed ambulance care, but everyone receives a follow-up visit to check on their recovery.

Supporting care leavers

Recognising that giving the right support to care leavers will set them up for success in the future, **Birmingham City Council** funds council tax payments for all care leavers up until the age of 25. This gives care leavers a boost as they begin their adult lives, freeing up their finances to go towards investing in their own future; for example, on driving lessons and household items, which young people often fund through familial support. The council also gives care leavers the highest priority status on waiting lists for council homes and discretionary payments towards deposits if they choose to live in the private rented sector.

A new approach to children's social care

No Wrong Door is **Warrington Borough Council's** programme to reduce the number of children in care and reduce family breakdown in the borough. The Lighthouse is the No Wrong Door "hub" in the town centre that will replace traditional council-run children's homes and provide integrated provision instead. Dedicated staff include a speech and language therapist, a counsellor with life coaching skills, key workers for each child and police staff. The service is run on five core principles, including "is this good enough for my own child", "what kind of adult does this child want to be and are we being aspirational

enough for them” and “are we building trusted relationships?” Outcomes include fewer children in care, fewer children missing school and fewer children engaging in criminal activity.

Free prescriptions for care leavers

Care leavers face more challenges in the transition to adulthood than other young people. **Sandwell Council** worked with the Integrated Care Board to provide free prescriptions and a named GP for care leavers. Care leavers often find themselves unable to afford prescriptions as they do not have family financial support to fall back on to pay for them. This is important for all care leavers, but particularly for those with ongoing health issues as it could mean the difference between being able to lead a normal life or not being able to work and socialise due to health issues.

TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

Early help for children and young people

Manchester City Council has set up the “Making Manchester Fairer” programme – a five-year action plan to tackle health inequalities in the city in the wake of Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis. Kickstarter schemes have been launched focusing on supporting children, young people, and their families, with early help and support for adults experiencing multiple and complex disadvantages. Interventions range to universal support to specialist targeted help. Targeted help includes mental health support, healthy living advice and employment support. The programme is already influencing wider council policies, with a new housing strategy focused on tackling health inequalities.



STRENGTHENING SOCIAL CARE

Fair Pay for care workers

In 2022, **Oldham Council** implemented the Living Wage for all care workers working in commissioned care services. This came into effect in-year and has continued as the living wage increased. This is important given the rising cost-of-living, but also gives some of the borough's hardest working staff a much-needed boost to their incomes and drives up quality for local people accessing care.

Active lifestyles

Reading Borough Council has bought together its adult social care, leisure, and housing services to improve adult social care outcomes for residents – taking a preventative and holistic approach by promoting active and healthy lifestyles and encouraging/ supporting independent living. Working with a leisure partner, facilities were redeveloped with a focus on increasing usage and participation, redeveloping several sites instead of a flagship. In addition to this, investment in Reading's parks included outdoor gym equipment and making them attractive places to spend time. As part of this work, two former swimming pool sites were appropriated into the Housing Revenue Account – with one site being used for new council housing and the other for a new extra care facility.

Working across public services

Working with Gwent Police, **Torfaen Council** has launched a Multi-Agency Support and Safeguarding Hub (MASSH) to improve support for children and their parents and carers. Key staff who deal with child safety referrals now work in the MASSH to support early intervention and prevention, as well as providing information, advice and referrals to families. The co-location of police, social care workers, customer care staff, Families First staff and administrators into the MASSH has helped manage demand for children's social care and made it easier to navigate by creating a single point of access. There is a high demand for children's social care in the area which could have led to unsustainable demand on children's services – but by using resources effectively and creating consistency across services, the looked after children population in Torfaen has dropped by 30% over the past two years.

THE LABOUR DIFFERENCE ON HEALTH

Labour councils prioritise investment in early intervention to reduce health inequalities:

- Labour councils invest twice as much per citizen on early intervention health measures than Conservative councils, improving lives and reducing social care costs
- Labour councils invest more than twice as much per capita on smoking cessation schemes and sexual health, reducing health inequalities
- 31 Labour councils have now adopted Unison's Ethical Care Charter, which establishes a baseline for the safety, quality, and dignity of care

food sold by the premises. Food consumed outside the home now makes up a significant portion of people's diets, but if the offerings are predominantly unhealthy the negative impact on individual's health increases pressure on local health and social care services. The council works with businesses to support them through the application

Mental health support for black men

Black men in Britain are seventeen times more likely to be diagnosed with a serious mental health condition than white men, and four times more likely to be sectioned. **Islington Council** has launched "Young Black Men and Mental Health" – an innovative programme to create a better future for black men and boys. Its four main strands form part of the borough's Challenging Inequalities strategy. These strands range from training barber shop staff across Islington to recognise the signs of poor mental health and to point them towards appropriate support; working with secondary schools to appoint a full-time counsellor to provide group and one to one support; providing wraparound care to black men aged 16-25 at risk of exclusion, poor health and violence; and a cultural competency programme for partners including the police, GPs and schools.

Healthier food

Waltham Forest Council has helped 71 local businesses gain the Healthier Catering Commitment accreditation, which requires a business to provide healthier food options by reducing the levels of saturated fat, salt and sugar in the



process, and the accreditation is open for application to all types of catering businesses. The council is now hoping to expand the programme with a particular focus on catering establishments near schools to reduce the number of children eating unhealthy food.

Helping vulnerable people in winter

The winter is a challenging time for many people, but especially those made vulnerable due to low income, certain health conditions or recent bereavement.

South Tyneside Council has a Winter Readiness scheme in place to support these residents through the season. The council works with partner organisations to enable them to provide support to vulnerable residents utilising their services so they can access advice, know what's available to them during the winter to tackle social isolation and loneliness, the support in place to help with home heating and general healthcare advice and guidance.

Addressing the social determinants of health

South Yorkshire Mayor Oliver Coppard has set up a Health Equity Advisory Panel to help him identify how to address the 'social determinants of health' and fix South Yorkshire's long standing health challenges. Mayor Coppard is also the only Mayor to serve as Chair of the local Integrated Care Partnership, which will help support his work.

Increasing physical activity

The Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS) is a **Westminster City Council** scheme to gently introduce residents to physical activity over 12 weeks. Delivered by Everyone Active, the council's leisure partner, residents get one-to-one support, access to group exercise classes, swimming, and other activities, as well as learning the mental and physical benefits of regular exercise. Participation is monitored monthly, with the service regularly being oversubscribed, and most participants now exercise regularly because of the scheme.

Healthy living from cradle to grave

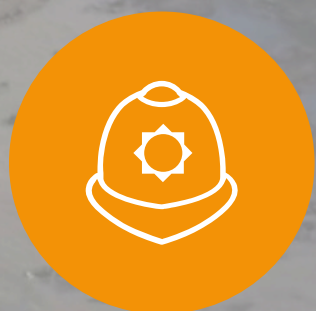
Healthy Stevenage is **Stevenage Borough Council's** strategy to reduce health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of residents. Launched alongside the county council and NHS partners, Healthy Stevenage focuses on four key public health areas – health improvement, health promotion, health protection and health inequalities. The strategy has galvanised partnership working between the council and charities and other public bodies, and meeting the goals of the strategy is integral to the rest of the council's strategic objectives.



TAKE BACK OUR STREETS

AND BRING PRIDE BACK TO OUR PLACES

Labour believes security is the bedrock on which opportunities are built, communities can thrive, and local economies can prosper. This has been eroded over the last fourteen years and Labour will focus on tackling the twin challenges of reducing violent crime and raising confidence in our police. Safer streets and lower crime will increase visits to high streets, hospitality services and public spaces, benefiting local economies. Labour councils across the country are already working hard to bring pride back to our places – reducing violence against women and girls, improving the cleanliness and safety of our streets, and welcoming refugees.



TACKLING CRIME

Taking on dirty money

Westminster City Council became the first council in the country to launch a campaign against 'Dirty Money', highlighting the corrosive role played by opaque ownership that fuels the proliferation of 'American Candy' shops on Oxford Street which sell illegal products and owe more than £9m in business rates. Through the council's business rates and trading standards enforcement, the council have found companies with entirely fictitious directors registered at Companies House, and 'phoenixing', where firms have shut to avoid tax but soon re-open under a new name. The same lack of transparency underpins the problem of empty and underused homes in the middle of a housing crisis. Labour in Westminster have built a coalition to make the case for reform and to influence the passage of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act. The council are working with the Centre for Public Data to develop a list of properties where the declared beneficial owner is unclear or appears to be inconsistent with other records, and this will be shared with HM Revenue & Customs and the National Crime Agency. Through their actions Westminster is on course to halve the number of candy shops on Oxford Street since Labour took office.

Helping independent stores to reduce crime

West of England Mayor Dan Norris has supported local independent stores to install much-needed security measures with the "Safer Shops West" initiative, introduced in response to a huge rise in shoplifting. The Mayor's programme will allow independent shops to receive £2,000 towards the costs of security measures such as CCTV, screens, body cams and hand-held radios, helping to reduce crime and protect small businesses from the cost of crime, as well as diversifying our high street.

More visible street presence

Hammersmith and Fulham have introduced a new 72-strong Neighbourhood Enforcement Team to crack down on low level crime and anti-social behaviour that has blighted residents lives. The new team, which will see uniformed officers patrolling every street and

THE LABOUR DIFFERENCE ON SAFER STREETS

Labour councils invest more per head of population than Conservative councils on key services to keep our streets safe and secure:

- More than twice as much on crime reduction (121% more per head), including paying for extra police where the government have reduced numbers
- 30% more on community safety, including extra neighbourhood wardens and advice to keep you safe at home
- 13% more on CCTV to keep streets safe and provide evidence to convict criminals
- 85% more on street lighting, making residents feel safer at night, and 31% on services like graffiti removal and cleaning up fly tipping

most complex cases are all given a named contact from the team to coordinate their support. The work seems to be making a difference

housing estate in the borough, will have a dedicated officer for every ward in the borough. **Sheffield Council** have increased investment in community safety with 28 extra uniformed enforcement wardens for every neighbourhood, and new CCTV linked to the central monitoring unit and quick response teams so they can tackle incidents before they get out of hand.

Partnership work to tackle youth violence

Bristol City Council has set up a programme to tackle youth crime and exploitation. The Safer Options partnership between the council, police, schools and voluntary sector provides a range of support to vulnerable children from mentoring to group work and sporting activities. Safer Options was launched in Bristol as a community-led response in east and central Bristol to increasing serious violence and child criminal exploitation involving young people. The work is coordinated by the Safer Options Hub, a team of specialist practitioners whose job it is to support change across the partnership system, and a network of dedicated Safer Options workers embedded in different services across the city. Safer Options works with more than 50 groups, including those providing parenting support, charities running groups for girls involved in violence and exploitation as well as a network of youth clubs, wellbeing services and careers advice. The

with both serious violent crime and hospitals admissions for knife injuries among the under 25s reducing.

CLEANING UP OUR STREETS



Taking on illegal waste carriers

Leeds City Council established a Serious Environmental Crime Team, known as SECT, in April 2022. This was in response to the national trend of an increase in fly tipping caused by organised crime and illegal waste carriers. This new, dedicated unit brought together staff with a specialism in environmental enforcement with the remit to investigate and bring to justice those who are creating the most significant fly tipping in Leeds. The team have established excellent working links with the police and neighbouring councils, with several significant live investigations taking place into large scale fly tipping that has seen organised criminal activity brought to justice. During 2022 the team issued 104 fixed penalties for fly tipping amounting to over £31,000 in fines. Further complementary action will include investigations with use of covert trackers, a city-wide fly tipping prevention campaign highlighting the legal need to responsibly dispose of your waste and launch of an accredited waste carriers' scheme for Leeds.

Keeping streets clear of fly tipping

Before Labour took control of **Stoke-on-Trent City Council** in May 2023, it was common for residents to endure waiting periods of up to six months for the removal of reported fly tipping incidents. Under the Labour leadership, the council started a campaign to restore the city's cleanliness and educate residents on proper waste disposal. The council set an ambitious target to clear 1000 cases of illegal dumping within 100 days and issue as many £400 fixed penalty notices to the culprits as possible. £26,000 was allocated to hire additional enforcement and cleansing staff and an alleyway sweeper and new truck obtained to increase waste removal capacity. Within just 50 days, the team had achieved its target and continues to exceed expectations. The new Labour administration also secured £25,000 in

TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

Tackling 'everyday sexism'

Southwark Council's 'Through Her Eyes' campaign confronts men and boys with the impact of 'everyday' sexist behaviour through a girl's eyes, to show the cumulative impact it can have. The campaign encourages men and boys to challenge their own attitudes and behaviour, and that of others. This was distilled into the one message: see it, stop it; moving the responsibility away from women and girls. 'Through Her Eyes' delivered on Southwark Council's commitment to launch a major campaign to tackle misogyny in Southwark. The campaign timing was tied to White Ribbon Day and the start of the World Cup – a time associated with a spike in violence against women and girls. The launch included a special assembly with over 80 sixth form boys (aged 16-18) at South Bank University Academy. A resource pack was developed for schools and youth groups to use alongside the campaign video to aid engagement sessions about misogyny and sexual harassment.

Using technology to deter domestic violence

In January 2021, **Blackpool Council** piloted a scheme where Ring doorbells were installed at the homes of people identified as having high-risk domestic abuse incidents. Referrals are made from several different agencies including police, domestic abuse charities and health services. The initial feedback was overwhelmingly positive and to date 650 doorbells have been fitted. Not only do they act as a deterrent to offenders, but they also provide peace of mind for the victims who feel safer in their own home. There have been four reoccurrences, but the doorbells have enabled the police to act against the perpetrators. One breach took place while a victim was out of the house, but they were able to watch the footage and call the police, preventing them returning to a dangerous situation. On another occasion, the perpetrator was released from prison and attended the victim's house within two days. The footage from the doorbell enabled the police to quickly make an arrest and he was recalled to prison.



funding to clean the city centre streets of chewing gum, further enhancing the city's overall tidiness. Labour Councillors actively contributed to organising litter picks in their respective wards, with hundreds of city residents participating in clean-up activities. To date, over 500 fixed penalty notices have been issued, effectively mitigating a substantial part of the campaign's costs through fines paid by those who had shown contempt for the city.

PROMOTING STREET SAFETY

Reducing the fear of crime

While overall crime levels in Waltham Forest are stable, recent spikes in youth knife crime has led to **Waltham Forest Council** running a 'Safe Streets' pilot in two areas of the borough to reduce fear of crime. The six month pilot brought together a multi-agency team including the council, police, and community groups to work on a hyper-local basis, with work directed by the priorities of residents, businesses, and local members. Safe Streets enabled a broader and more visible presence from all agencies to increase local confidence. Through survey data the council were able to track how safe or unsafe individuals felt in their area, and evaluation is still in progress with full impacts being analysed.

Safe Havens

Islington Council has implemented a network of over 200 Safe Havens across the borough. If a member of the public is in danger, feels threatened or harassed on the street, feels unwell or just generally needs some support, they can look for the Safe Haven sign in windows and know that they can get help there, no questions asked. They range from shops to restaurants and libraries, leisure centres and faith venues. The Blackstock Pub in Finsbury Park is one of Islington's safe havens. They provide a valuable safe space and regularly supporting local people, especially late at night. They have provided support to people being followed by allowing them to wait in the pub and on one occasion staff walked someone home who lived nearby.

WELCOMING REFUGEES

Cities of Sanctuary

Many Labour councils have signed up to become a City of Sanctuary. Being in the City of Sanctuary UK network commits members to welcoming refugees and asylum seekers to their communities and providing them with proper support as they settle into life in the UK and integrate into their new communities. Councils including **Bristol, Sheffield, Cambridge, Southwark, Brighton,** and **Lewisham** have all signed up to become a City of Sanctuary, going the extra mile to welcome people to their communities who have experienced adversity and challenges during their journey to a safe home.



Welcoming Ukrainian refugees

People across the country were shocked by Putin's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The invasion was followed by an exodus of Ukrainians fleeing to safety. Many chose to come to the UK, with councils stepping in to finding housing and provide essential support to refugees who had to leave home with what they could carry. **Haringey Council** set up Welcome Hubs across the borough to act as drop-ins to provide information such as how to set up a bank account, as well as providing welcome leaflets in English and Ukrainian, information about Covid-19 vaccines (given a far lower vaccination rate in Ukraine), access to eBooks in Ukrainian and visa advice. This information was available to both refugees and sponsors.

Leicester City Council paired new arrivals under the Homes for Ukraine scheme with support workers to help them with key tasks such as registering with a GP, finding school places, opening a bank account and accessing English language classes.

CELEBRATING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Building pride in local communities

Luton Council's "Many Voices, One Town" campaign celebrates diversity in Luton and the shared values between the different communities that live there. Luton is one of the most diverse towns in England and has been a target for far right and religious extremists seeking to divide and cause community tensions. A broad range of strategies have been launched to increase and enhance community cohesion. Luton Irish Forum have taken a lead on one piece of work, working with second and third generation Irish residents in Luton looking at how British and Irish cultures combine with one another, how this impacts identity, and how the British-Irish community lives alongside many others in Luton. This was received positively by participants and was rolled out in other communities in Luton.

BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY

AND BOOST LOCAL SKILLS

The promise we tell our children and grandchildren is that if you work hard, you'll be able to get on in life no matter what your background and where you live. Everyone should have the opportunity to make the most of their abilities and pursue a fulfilling career. Everyone should be able to enjoy a good life, with a secure place to call home. But Britain is currently failing on these promises – how well off your family is has a strong influence on your future life chances, and education and childcare desperately need reforming to break down barriers to opportunity. Despite limited powers and resources Labour councils and mayors are already achieving so much – and are ready to work with a future Labour government to go even further.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO CULTURE, ARTS AND SPORT IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Opportunities for every child

Telford & Wrekin Council's '10 by 10' programme aims to give all children the opportunity to take part in ten life-enhancing activities by the time they are ten years old. The council has offered swimming lessons to all children and the music service has increased capacity to provide more music lessons. The council's Library Service worked with schools to promote reading over the summer holiday with many more children signing-up and completing the 6-week summer reading challenge. These initiatives change children and young people's lives, removing the barriers some might face, to make sure that every child in the borough has access to these outstanding experiences, regardless of their background.

Similarly **Islington Council's** '11 by 11' programme sees all of Islington's young people benefit from at least 11 outstanding cultural experiences by year 11. Three years after its launch, Islington celebrated how the programme had delivered more than 32,000 pupil experiences with cultural, educational, and business institutions.

Boosting music support

Milton Keynes City Council's MK Music Faculty coordinates and delivers musical opportunities for children and young people both in school and at its music centre. It works closely with local schools to ensure that as many young people who wish to learn a musical instrument have access to this opportunity, regardless of their background. Through the Totally Music programme, strategic support is offered to schools that wish to develop and audit their music education, developing school singing strategies and providing opportunities for large-scale performances.

Extending the reach of museums

In 2019, **Ipswich Borough Council's** Museums Service partnered with Ipswich Job Centre to extend the reach of the Museum into the local community and to introduce clients to a range of activities. 'Joy at the Job Centre' offered a range of free half-term activities for families,

including shared meals, crafts, dance, and even live animals for the children to pet. This approach was shared with other Jobcentres and cultural organisations all over East Anglia to create a cultural model for Jobcentres, which they hope will be rolled out across the UK.

Helping children recover from the pandemic

To address the impact of the pandemic, **Manchester City Council** led a city-wide programme in 2022 dedicated to children's recovery – putting on a year of activities and opportunities. The 'Our Year' project was led by young people, with the council leadership and partners speaking to thousands of children in schools and youth clubs across the city. A wide range of businesses supported the programme with cash donations, donations of laptops, sponsorship of the Our Year Legacy Fund, work experience and mentoring opportunities, free tickets for events and career talks from professionals in a variety of sectors. Over 55,000 children and young people attended an event or took up an opportunity linked to the 'Our Year' programme.

Eurovision in Liverpool

In 2023 **Liverpool City Council** hosted Eurovision on behalf of Ukraine, the 2022 winners. The actual song contest was only one part of Liverpool's job as the host city – including residents in Eurovision was an integral part of the event to the council. With a vibrant musical history in Liverpool, United by Music was the theme for the Euro Streets and EuroLearn programmes – engaging almost 60,000 residents in community festivals and learning to celebrate the city's diversity and the best of Eurovision.



GIVING CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE THE BEST CHANCE IN LIFE

New models of fostering

The Mockingbird model is a pioneering way of approaching support for foster parents and care experienced children and is part of the concerted effort that **South Tyneside Council** has made to improve the outcomes for children in care. The model launched in 2021 and implements 'constellations' of foster homes each supported by a hub home foster carer, with the aim being that that parents in the constellation received guidance from the hub foster carer and can help and support each other. The idea is to create the sort of support network that a non-fostering family might receive from friends and relatives, alleviating any sense of isolation that foster families might feel and providing practical ongoing support. This extended family model also gives opportunity for children in care to better socialise with one another and makes it easier to keep sibling groups together.

Attracting more social workers

St Helens Council tackled the national crisis of a shortage of social workers, by developing and delivering on a programme to

THE LABOUR DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Despite government cuts in funding for children's services, Labour councils have a proud record of supporting every child to succeed:

- Labour councils spend 54% more per head than Conservative councils on Sure Start children's centres, supporting every child to thrive and arrive at school ready to learn
- Labour councils spend 19% more per head on youth services than Conservative councils, providing more young people with positive activities in their local area
- Every key service to protect children – from family support to child protection, and from youth justice to children in care – all receive higher investment per child from Labour councils in comparison to Conservative councils

recruit, onboard and establish several experienced social workers from Zimbabwe and South Africa to join their team of Children's Social Workers. All eight international social workers are settling in well and enjoying the role.

Finding more foster families

Greenwich Council's Fostering Service continues to focus efforts to increase the number of foster carers in the Borough. Their recruitment activities were adapted using a hybrid approach for information events and initial home visits using Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, or FaceTime Video calls. The council have increased the proportion of children and young people placed with internal foster carers from 49.8% to 56.5%, meaning more children are able to be placed closer to home at a lower cost to the council.



Extra help for care leavers

In 2022 **Newcastle City Council** and partners launched a project to offer young people who have recently left local authority care in Newcastle and Gateshead free travel on the local bus and Metro network to support them into adult life. This original scheme gave more than 300 young people aged 18 to 25 a year's free travel across all local public transport in Tyne and Wear. One year on from the pilot launch over 1800 free journeys had been taken by the eligible young people on both the bus and Metro network every month, giving them the ability to socialise, seek and maintain employment, and supporting their mental health. Many care-experienced young people highlighted that travel costs had a significant impact on their wellbeing, opportunities for education and work as well as their ability to connect with family and friends. Feedback from the pilot showed that travel cost is no longer a barrier to these opportunities.

TACKLING POVERTY AND DISADVANTAGE

Reducing the cost of school uniforms

Bradford Council's Public Health team in partnership with Bradford District Credit Union funded UniformSavers, a pilot saving scheme to enable parents and carers to save for their children's uniforms. It is open to 285 low-income families who receive a further £100 to boost their uniform buying power once they start saving. Funding for this innovative project was secured for a further year in recognition of its success.

Boosting pupil premium funding

Lewisham Council has accessed an additional £1.2m in pupil premium funds for schools across the borough, in a pilot opt out exercise that cost just £800 in postage costs. The work involved data analysis crossing over several services within the council, which initially identified over 500 families living in Lewisham potentially eligible for pupil premium funding, but who had not applied to receive it. Families were contacted and informed that the council would apply on their behalf unless they chose to opt out of the process, and the extra £1.2m is allocated directly to their local school. The pilot project has been deemed a huge success and will be expanded and developed for the future, not just for schools but for other services that might benefit from an opt-out approach.



ENRICHING THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Child friendly cities

Cardiff Council was recently recognised as UNICEF's first Child Friendly City in the UK in recognition of the steps the council have taken to advance the rights of children and young people across the city. Since joining UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities & Communities programme in 2017, Cardiff Council has been implementing strategies to embed children's rights into its policies and services, ensuring that children are able to claim their rights, thrive and reach their potential. 73% of Cardiff schools are working to embed children's rights as part of the UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award. 12,000 young people provided views via the Child Friendly City Survey and 2,785 children have participated in the design, monitoring and evaluation of Cardiff Council services.

Child Friendly Leeds (CFL) is **Leeds City Council's** citywide approach to be the best city for children and young people to grow up in. CFL makes a difference by engaging Leeds' ambassador network of over 700 partners in business, public and third sectors and the wider community, around shared priorities. Leeds' enrichment offer provides tickets to events and activities or projects to provide children in care with access to the same opportunities as other children. Education, employment, and training opportunities are provided in partnership with the care leaver's service. Partners also provide Christmas gifts to children who would likely receive far less without these arrangements. In 2022, a project saw unaccompanied asylum-seeking children come together to cook and share food from their homelands. Working with the British Library, dishes were recreated and collated into a book 'Cooked With Love'.

Extra holiday activities

Torfaen Council provides holiday and term-time play services and respite provision through the Torfaen Play Service. The play service is fully inclusive, offering targeted support for young people with disabilities or other additional needs. The service costs less than £200,000 per year but generates income and delivers fantastic outcomes, improving young peoples' wellbeing, helping families and acting as a key early intervention and prevention service to stem demand on acute services. In addition to this, Torfaen also has a free weekly Community Play Provision scheme where children aged 5 to 11 can play safely under supervision, and a Play Lending Library which has a wide range of toys and equipment to hire at a reasonable cost.

Free books for local children

Labour Councillors at **Nottingham City Council** have been raising money to support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides a free book every month from birth to five years. Over 11,000 of the poorest Nottingham children have benefited from the scheme, introducing them to reading early which will help improve their attainment at school.



Poverty Truth Commission

Over 9,000 children in **Cheshire West and Chester** are living in poverty. In 2017 the council launched the first Council-led Poverty Truth Commission (PTC) with the aim of tackling the root causes of poverty and addressing any gaps in the services the council provides to support affected residents. A second PTC was held in 2020, to provide a further opportunity for communities to share their stories and lived experiences, speak openly with local leaders, and promote an honest, collaborative reflection on how systems and processes could better support local people. This has led to a wide range of positive outcomes, including more effective partnership working and increased socio-economic inclusion awareness across local organisations, extra support for front-line staff to understand the need for compassion, empathy and a desire to make any positive difference they can. It also includes improved access to food in schools and a £50,000 Tackling Poverty Crowdfund to support local community-backed projects. The council have since declared a Poverty Emergency and launched a new co-produced Fairer Futures Strategy 2022-32, setting out an ambitious ten-year plan to reduce poverty across the borough.

IMPROVING EMPLOYABILITY

Construction skill training

Cannock Chase Council is working with South Staffordshire College, utilizing the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to bring new training facilities for construction courses to Cannock College. 9 out of the top 10 occupations held by local people are within construction specialisms. There are also over 20% more job openings within construction than the national average. Cannock College is perfectly placed to support young people and adults within the Cannock area to gain valuable skills and experience to secure sustainable employment within the construction sector and fill existing job openings. The college will also support people already working within the construction sector to gain higher level skills, thus increasing their earning potential.

Filling the creative skills gap

Waltham Forest Council recognised several challenges facing the creative sector, including skills gaps following a loss of talent from the UK during the pandemic, youth unemployment and a lack of diversity. The council introduced the 'Future Formed' policy to address these issues, working in partnership with local employers to provide meaningful and sustainable opportunities in creative industries. The council have seen an incredible impact among unemployed residents to learn and be curious about a creative career, with residents gaining new skills and long-term employment opportunities. Over 25 diverse residents took part in Future Technicians training, and 15 residents were recruited to the Revel Puck Circus Programme. Another success of this policy was the award-winning Podcast series OhPod! delivered in partnership with University College London.



Improving careers advice

Nearly 5,000 young people plus parents and carers attended **Newcastle City Council's** 'My future: My choice' in February 2023. The fully inclusive careers event showcased routes and opportunities for pupils of all abilities and was a chance for young people to meet with a wide range of employers and education providers to help them plan for their future. Every school in Newcastle was invited to attend with various sessions available for years 9 and 11, 6th form and college students, parents, and a designated area for SEND pupils. The young people who attended heard from guest speakers from a range of sectors about their employment and training experiences, allowing them to understand the wider skills and experiences needed for employment.

Support to get back into work

Southwark Council has established an employment and skills system called 'Southwark Works'. Designed and delivered with local communities, businesses, and skills providers, it demonstrates how

local delivery can outperform one size fits all national programmes, supporting thousands of residents to find work. The service has a higher success rate than similar national programmes, helping more people to start and keep a job or apprenticeship. Southwark Works also has a greater positive impact on residents' mental wellbeing, demonstrating the broader value of a holistic employment service. Southwark Works is delivered by a network of third sector providers rooted in the local community, who offer a range of tailored employment support based on underlying needs, such as mental health, homelessness or disability. Unlike the Job Centre, Southwark Works is free from conditionality, providing help for anyone who wants to find a job, not just those in receipt of specific benefits.

Step-Up is **Wakefield Council's** flagship employment and skills programme, designed to get people into work, reduce in-work poverty, and provide training to increase promotions. The programme helps unemployed residents that recruitment agencies cannot, including those who have been unemployed long-term or lack experience, have disabilities, health issues or caring responsibilities. The service is person-centred and tailored to individual needs, removing barriers by working with partners to produce debt management plans, helping residents find professional care for loved ones so they are available for work, and addressing anxiety and other mental health issues. Step-up has evolved and now provides an even more personalised approach, such as helping people with learning disabilities and autism move into employment, education, or training. Since the project launched it has helped more than 1,400 residents get back into employment and upskilled more than 800 others.

ACHIEVING A LABOUR GOVERNMENT

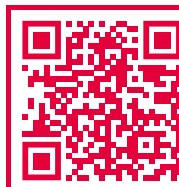
'101 Achievements' shows that Labour councils and mayors can deliver for working people when they are in power locally – but the best and fastest route to deliver for the whole country is to elect a Labour government with Keir Starmer as our Prime Minister. Help us win and hold power by campaigning to achieve a Labour government.

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Thank you to all the members and officers who contributed the information and good practice that enabled us to compile this publication – together, we’re showing the difference that Labour in local government makes. This publication has been compiled and edited by the LGA Labour staff team.

“101 Achievements is a compendium full of innovation, inspiration, and ideas from Labour councils and mayors across the UK, themed across the Five Missions that Keir Starmer has set out for the next Labour government. It is a fantastic resource and reference for Labour councillors, activists, policy makers, as we set ourselves the challenge of demonstrating how Labour will make a difference from power.”

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